enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.

Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Import of High Altitude Operationable Helicopters

1327. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army is importing helicopters designed for high altitude operations from Russia, United States and Europe;

(b) if so, whether Hindustan Aeronautiecs Ltd. is unable to deliver similar helicopters in the near future and;

(c) when would the HAL be able to build high altitude operationable helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is a proposal to import helicopters to replace Cheetah and Chetak for high altitude operations for which global 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) was issued.

(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at present does not manufacture helicopter in the category for which RFP has been issued. The proposal envisages import of some helicopters and Transfer of Technology from the successful vendor to enable HAL to manufacture the helicopters.

(c) HAL will be able to manufacture these helicopters after acquiring the Transfer of Technology.

Setting UP of a Group for More Private Participation in Defence Production

1328. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up a group to suggest